| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-1300Responded to: 15 May 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information:**

**How much is the total spending on communication data requests under the** [Investigatory Powers Act 2016](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.legislation.gov.uk%2Fukpga%2F2016%2F25%2Fsection%2F249%2Fenacted&data=05%7C02%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7Ccac095bfb3b64ecb863a08dc73373abd%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638511928255584656%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=qCtjBzmCgwL%2BzP21ccHP8r%2Bm3%2F4hcgD1wPvxdLEiLgo%3D&reserved=0)**?**

**- To telecommunications operators**

**- To postal operators**

**If possible, this should also include a breakdown of the companies provided with the payment each received.**

**Please provide the above data for the years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 2022, 2023 and 2024 (year to date). Please refine this to 2021, 2022 and 2023 if needed on cost grounds.**

**There is a clear public interest due to the sensitivity of the communications being requested and costs involved.**

I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought exists or is held by Police Scotland in terms of section 18 of the Act.

Section 18 applies where the following two conditions are met:

- It would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held

- If the information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure in terms of one or more of the exemptions set out in sections 28 to 35, 38, 39(1) or 41 of the Act.

If the above data was held, the following exemptions would be considered relevant:

Section 31(1) – National Security

Section 34 – Investigations by a Scottish Public Authority

Section 35(1) (a) & (b) – Law Enforcement

Section 39(1) – Health and Safety

Disclosure of the requested information, if held, would substantially prejudice the ability of Police Scotland with regards the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

## This explanation should not be taken as indicative or conclusive evidence that the information you have requested does or does not exist.

Finally, I would ask that you note that statistical information regarding communications data applications is published at a national level by the Investigatory Powers Commissioners Office (IPCO).

It is assessed that this is the appropriate level for disclosure, with any further breakdown providing tactical insight into the use of this activity by Police Scotland.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by email or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by email or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.